

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
using ~~a specific record~~ an authorization and authentication profile associated with a user, ~~wherein the specific record is stored at a server node, including~~
the authorization and authentication profile is sent from an authentication and authorization device located in a home network to a server node; and
the authorization and authentication profile is stored at the server node, wherein
the ~~specific record~~ authorization and authentication profile contains information ~~that~~
~~determines that a user characteristic is to be verified which allows the server node to~~
authorize and authenticate the user directly without contacting the authentication and
authorization device with a home network prior to providing access to said service, and
wherein the authorization and authentication profile further contains information defining that
the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted ~~for the user is verified when the~~
a number of simultaneous sessions for the user is equal to a predetermined number.
2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
transferring said information from ~~an authentication, authorization and accounting~~
~~home server~~ the authentication and authorization device to the server node in at least one of a
signaling path for a service setup, a service event, ~~or~~ and a registration, ~~or a combination~~

thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~
~~deciding, based on~~ wherein said information indicates, that at least one of the
authentication ~~or~~ and authorization, ~~or both,~~ needs to be verified.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
performing at least one of the authentication ~~or~~ and the authorization, ~~or both,~~ of the
user.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:
performing at least one of the authentication ~~or~~ and the authorization, ~~or both,~~ of the
user by using ~~an authentication, authorization and accounting home server~~ the authentication
and authorization device.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, ~~further comprising:~~
~~performing where~~ at least one of the authentication ~~or~~ and the authorization, ~~or both,~~
of the user is performed in the server node when the required parameters are available.

7. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
using ~~a user specific record~~ an authorization and authentication profile associated with
a user, wherein the authorization and authentication profile is received from an authentication

and authorization device located in a home network, wherein the user-specific record
authorization and authentication profile is stored in a server node, wherein the authorization
and authentication profile contains information which allows the server node to authorize and
authenticate the user directly without contacting the authentication and authorization device,
and wherein the information further includes that indicates a condition that, when satisfied,
determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing
access to a service the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted; and

providing access to said a service responsive to said ~~user-specific record~~ authorization
and authentication profile, wherein the condition is that authorization and authentication is
verified with the authentication and authorization device when ~~the~~ a number of simultaneous
sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
determining whether said condition is satisfied; and
providing access to said service without ~~verifying said user characteristic~~ authorizing
and authenticating the user when said condition is not satisfied.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
determining whether said condition is satisfied;
~~verifying said user characteristic~~ authorizing and authenticating the user when said
condition is satisfied; and
subsequent to ~~said verifying of the user characteristic~~ authorizing and authenticating

the user, providing access to said service when said ~~user characteristic~~ authorizing indicates that the user is permitted to access said service.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

determining whether said condition is satisfied when a call session between said user and a service provider node is initiated.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

determining from the ~~user-specific record~~ authorization and authentication profile associated with said user when said condition exists during a call session between a user terminal and a service provider node.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

indicating, via said ~~user-specific record~~ authorization and authentication profile, when access to said service is permitted without determining, from data stored at a server node in said home network, whether access is permitted.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

generating a register message at a user terminal and transmitting said register message

to a local server node;

determining whether a condition indicated by ~~said user-specific record~~ an authorization and authentication profile stored at said local server node is satisfied;

generating an access message at said local server node indicating that access to said service is permitted; and

transmitting said access message to a service provider node.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising:
prior to said storing of said ~~user-specific record~~ authorization and authentication profile, generating a request message at said local server node and transmitting said request message to a ~~home authentication, authorization and accounting server of the user~~ the authentication and authorization device; and

~~transferring~~ receiving data comprising said ~~user-specific record~~ authorization and authentication profile from said ~~home authentication, authorization and accounting server~~ authentication and authorization device ~~to said local server node~~ responsive to said request message.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
generating an invite message at a user terminal and transmitting said invite message to a local server node;

determining whether a condition indicated by ~~said user-specific record~~ an authorization and authentication profile stored at said local server node is satisfied;

generating an access message at said local server node indicating that access to said service is permitted; and

transmitting said access message to a service provider node.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein ~~said user characteristic comprises~~ information indicates whether said user is authorized to access said service.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein ~~said user characteristic comprises~~ information indicates whether said user is authenticated to access said service.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said condition determines ~~the~~ a frequency at which said user is to be at least one of authorized or authenticated, ~~or both,~~ during a call session between ~~said~~ a user terminal and a service provider node.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
~~receiving means for receiving~~ at least one interface configured to receive a message from a user terminal; ~~storing means for storing a user specific record~~ and to receive an

authorization and authentication profile associated with a user from an authentication and authorization device located in a home network;

a memory configured to store the authorization and authentication profile associated with a the user, wherein the authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows the user to be authorized and authenticated directly with the apparatus without contacting the authentication and authorization device, and wherein the information further includes indicating a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing the user with access to a service the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted; and

generating means for generating the apparatus configured, in response to said user specific record authorization and authentication profile, to generate an access message to provide said a user with access to said a service from a service provider node, wherein the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when the a number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

22-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

storing an authorization and authentication profile, associated with a user, wherein the authorization and authentication profile is stored at a serving node in a serving network wherein the authorization and authentication profile is received from an authentication and

authorization device located in a home network; and

using said authorization and authentication profile at said serving node, wherein said authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows the user to be authorized and authenticated directly with the serving node in the serving network without contacting the authentication and authorization device, wherein the information further includes indicating a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing access to said service the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted, and wherein the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when ~~the~~ a number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number is equal to a predetermined number.

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
an interface configured to receive a message from a user terminal; ~~and~~
a receiver configured to receive data comprising an authorization and authentication profile from an authentication and authorization device located in a home network;
a memory configured to store said authorization and authentication profile;
a processor configured to use ~~a user specific record~~ an authorization and authentication profile associated with said user terminal, wherein the authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows a user to be authorized and authenticated directly with the apparatus without contacting an authentication and authorization device located in a home network, and wherein the information further includes

~~to indicate~~ a condition that, when satisfied, determines that ~~a user characteristic is to be~~
~~verified with a home network prior to providing said user with access to a service~~ the
authentication and authorization device is to be contacted, ~~wherein the user specific record is~~
~~stored in a server node~~, and

the processor configured to generate, in response to said ~~user specific record~~
authorization and authentication profile, an access message to provide said user with access to
said a service from a service provider node, wherein the condition is that authorization and
authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when ~~the~~ a number
of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor configured to use ~~a user specific record~~ an authorization and
authentication profile associated with a user, wherein the authorization and authentication
profile contains information which allows the user to be authorized and authenticated directly
with the apparatus without contacting the authentication and authorization device, and
wherein the information further includes ~~to indicate~~ a condition that, when satisfied,
determines that the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted ~~a user~~
~~characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing said user with access to~~
~~a service~~, ~~wherein the user specific record is stored in a server node~~, and

the processor configured to generate, in response to said ~~user specific record~~
authorization and authentication profile, an access message to provide said user with access to
said a service from a service provider node, wherein the condition is that authorization and

authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when ~~the~~ a number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, further comprising:

a transmitter configured to transmit said access message to the service provider node.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, the apparatus comprising a serving or proxy-call session control function node.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said ~~user specific record~~ authorization and authentication profile comprises a first data field identifying said user and a second data field determining when at least one of authentication ~~or~~ and authorization, ~~or both~~, of said user is required in order to access said service.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, ~~wherein said controller further comprises~~ comprising storage configured to store ~~a user specific record the~~ authorization and authentication profile.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, further comprising:

a transmitter configured to transmit said access message to the service provider node.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, the apparatus comprising a serving or proxy-call session control function node.

41. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said ~~user specific record~~ authorization and authentication profile comprises a first data field identifying said user and a second data field determining when at least one of authentication ~~or~~ and authorization, ~~or both,~~ of said user is required in order to access said service.

42. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
receiving a message from a user terminal;
receiving data comprising said authorization and authentication profile, where the data is received from an authentication and authorization device located in a home network;
using ~~a user specific record~~ an authorization and authentication profile associated with a user of said user terminal, wherein the authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows the user to be authorized and authenticated directly with a server

node without contacting the authentication and authorization device, wherein the information further includes indicating a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing said user with access to a service the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted, and wherein the user ~~specific record~~ authorization and authentication profile is stored in a the server node; and generating, in response to said ~~user specific record~~ authorization and authentication profile, an access message providing said user with access to ~~said a~~ a service from a service provider node, wherein the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when ~~the~~ a number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

43. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 42, further comprising:

transmitting said access message to the service provider node.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 42, wherein said ~~user specific record~~ authorization and authentication profile comprises a first data field identifying said user and a second data field determining when at least one of authentication ~~or and~~ authorization, ~~or both~~, of said user is required in order to access said service.

46. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving data comprising an authorization and authentication profile, where the data is received from the authentication and authorization device;

using a user specific record an authorization and authentication profile associated with a user, wherein the authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows the user to be authorized and authenticated directly with a server node without contacting an authentication and authorization device located in a home network, wherein the information further includes indicating a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing said user with access to a service the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted, and wherein the user specific record an authorization and authentication profile is stored in a the server node; and

generating, in response to said user specific record authorization and authentication profile, an access message providing said user with access to said a service from a service provider node, wherein the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when the a number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

47. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 46, further comprising:

transmitting said access message to the service provider node.

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 46, wherein said ~~user specific record~~ authorization and authentication profile comprises a first data field identifying said user and a second data field determining when at least one of authentication ~~or~~ and authorization, ~~or both~~, of said user is required in order to access said service.

50. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program embodied on a~~ computer-readable storage medium embodying a computer program, the program ~~configured to control a~~ executable by a processor to perform a process, the process operations comprising:

receiving a message from a user terminal;

receiving data comprising an authorization and authentication profile, where the data is received from an authentication and authorization device;

using ~~a user specific record~~ an authorization and authentication profile associated with a user of the user terminal, wherein the authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows the user to be authorized and authenticated directly with a server node without contacting an authentication and authorization device located in a home network, wherein the information further includes indicating a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing said user with access to a service the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted, and wherein the ~~user specific record~~ authorization and authentication profile is stored in a the server node; and

generating, in response to said ~~user specific record~~ authorization and authentication

profile, an access message providing said user with access to ~~said~~ a service from a service provider node, wherein the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when ~~the~~ a number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

51. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program embodied on a~~ computer-readable storage medium embodying a computer program, the program ~~configured to control a~~ executable by a processor to perform a process, the process operations comprising:

using ~~a user specific record~~ an authorization and authentication profile associated with a user, wherein the authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows the user to be authorized and authenticated directly with a server node without contacting an authentication and authorization device located in a home network, wherein the information further includes indicating a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing said user with access to a service the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted, and wherein the user specific record authorization and authentication profile is stored in a the server node; and

generating, in response to said ~~user specific record~~ authorization and authentication profile, an access message providing said user with access to ~~said~~ a service from a service provider node, wherein the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when ~~the~~ a number of simultaneous sessions for the user is equal to a predetermined number.